OCT 8 1926

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report)

Budget Session of 1101.

Wednesday, the *13th of Karkadagam 1101.* = *28th of July 1926.*

The House re-assembled in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, at 11-30 a. m. on the 13th of Karkadagam 1101 corresponding to the 28th of July 1926, the President being in the Chair. All the members, except Messrs. K. Krishna Menon, Poulo Mampilli, K. Sankaran Nambutiri and H. J. Walmesly, were present.

President.—We shall, as usual, commence the proceedings of the day with Questions and Answers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The test applied in selecting Panchayats for investing with civil powers.

41. Mr.K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention what is the test applied in selecting Village Panchayats for investing with civil powers?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The satisfactory discharge of the administrative functions, distance from the Munsiffs' Courts and the volume of litigation from the villages constituting the Panchayats.

The investiture of the Vadama Panchayat with civil power.

42. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to invest the Vadama Panchayat with civil power which is of great necessity there, since a great deal of mercantile transactions are going on in the jurisdiction of the above Panchayat?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The question of investing certain additional Panchayats with judicial powers is under the consideration of the Government, and the case of the Vadama Panchayat will be taken up with that.

Insufficient grant to Panchayats.

43. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state —

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(a) whether any Panchayats have complained seriously against insufficient grants allotted by the Superintendent;

(b) whether the Superintendent will refrain from appropriating Panchayat funds at least hereafter for agricultural work, regard having had to the complaints from Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Complaint in the matter of insufficiency of grants is almost general. Funds to the various Panchayats are not allotted by the Superintendent but by the Government.

(b) Funds allotted for Panchayat works are not appropriated by the Superintendent for agricultural works, when the former requires retention of the allotments. When savings accrue on account of the non-execution of Panchayat works, and when at the same time there is a demand for funds under some other sub-heads, say, agriculture, transfers are made with the approval of the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know whether the amount sanctioned for one Panchayat can be transferred to another Panchayat?

President.—From which part does that supplementary question arise?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The question of that sort of transfer does not arise in that.

President.—If there is a demand for funds, transfers are made from this head to the Agricultural Department.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want to know whether transfers are made from one Panchayat to another.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sometimes it is done.

The basis in making nominations to the Village Panchayats.

'44. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state —

(a) on what basis is the Government nomination of the Panchayat members made;

(b) is it done in consultation with the local public or the elected members of the Panchayat or the Tahsildar;

(c) are the best available of the public nominated;

(d) is it a fact that a convicted person was nominated for the Parappukkara Panchayat;

(e) whether there were not complaints signed by distinguished people, including ex-members of the Panchayat, regarding the above nomination;

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